

# Point of View

## Editorial

Before another issue of this weekly newspaper is out, the election will be over, the votes will have been counted, and we will know who our new local, state, and national governmental leaders, including legislators, will be.

Recently we have been deluged with television commercials portraying the virtues of one candidate and the faults of the opposing candidate for particular offices.

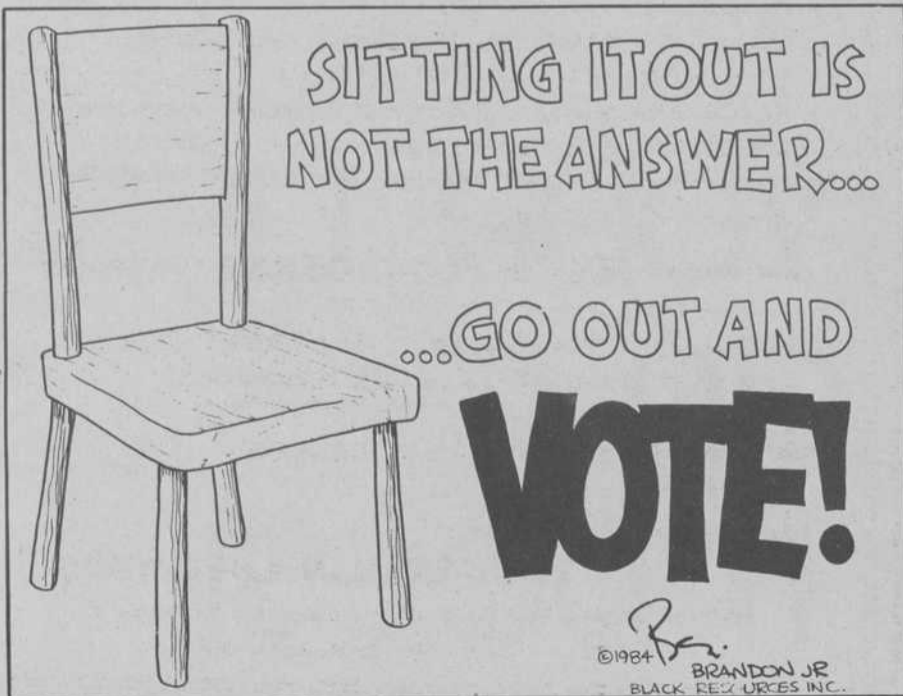
As Blacks, we have been promised everything from employment to subsidies. We have been told of "good times" ahead. We have also witnessed banks going broke, businesses folding, factories closing, families being broken up because of non-employment, people losing their jobs because of the recession, etc. Amidst all of this, we have been told that "prosperity" is just around the corner, to stick with the present administration for four more years so that it can finish a "job" it has begun to make America great. If no more progress is made during the next four years than has been made for Blacks during the last four years, then we are in serious trouble. The economy has gone downhill, the job market is practically closed, and people are still being let off their jobs with no hope of finding another one. Where does it all end? Somehow all of the promises made to us as Americans have not held up to reality.

Black voter apathy has caused many unfair and unsympathetic politicians to slide into office. Until every eligible Black voter gets out and votes, we can expect more of the same kind of treatment we have been getting during the past four years.

Whatever or however we think of the several candidates, it is about time for us to vote our feelings and convictions. We can change things! One way to do it is through our vote. VOTE!

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## Greater The Votes, Greater The Power



## To Be Equal

# PASS THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

By John E. Jacob

In its rush to adjourn and get back home for the election campaign, the Senate dumped the Civil Rights Act of 1984, which had been passed by the House.

That means no civil rights legislation this year, and a new fight for

look the other way while its athletics department or its chemistry department discriminated. Colleges would have no incentive at all to impose uniform anti-discrimination policies since there would be no effective sanctions against such behavior

any discrimination in any of its units.

That puts the responsibility for compliance with the law where it belongs — with the central administration of an institution. To do other-

could escape accountability.

The Court's decision was based on the fallacy that discrimination is something that can be partitioned. But in fact discrimination is a fast-spreading poison. Tolerate it in one office or department and it soon will contaminate the entire institution.

That was clearly seen by the House, which passed the Civil Rights bill by a wide margin — 375-32 — and by the 63 Senators that sponsored the Senate bill.

But a handful of Senators, backed by the Justice Department, kept the bill from coming to a vote, raising objections that the bill was too sweeping although it would simply restore the situation that existed before the Court's Grove City decision.

It is tragic that we should be involved in such a hard fight for an issue that was fought and settled many years ago. The Civil Rights bill should be the first item on the agenda for the new Congress.

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this urgently needed law next year.

The Senate's inaction was shameful, especially since the bill was backed by members of both parties and was generally supported by the public as a necessary corrective to a Supreme Court decision that opened a loophole in existing civil rights laws.

In the Grove City College case, the Court said that a college that refused to sign a non-discrimination statement, required by federal law, could not be denied federal funds. Only the college unit found in non-compliance could be punished.

A college could now

so long as it takes place in a department that doesn't get money from Washington.

Congress never intended such a narrow interpretation of the civil rights laws. And there is a danger that the interpretation of the particular civil rights statute in question, dealing with sex discrimination in higher education, might be extended to other civil rights laws.

That's why it was so urgent for the Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1984, before further damage could be done.

The bill would amend existing civil rights laws to make a covered institution responsible for



wise would be to invite selective discrimination or, at best, institutional indifference to possible discrimination in units that don't get direct federal aid.

The legislation would also allow individuals to file civil rights suits against a unit of an institution that gets federal funds, even if that particular unit does not receive such funds.

This legislation is corrective. Without it, the civil rights laws could be easily subverted and recipients of federal aid

